



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 114th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 162

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2016

No. 112

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBSTER of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 12, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DANIEL WEBSTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

PAUL D. RYAN,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR A 21ST CENTURY CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to thank my colleagues on the House Education and the Workforce Committee for their support last week in passing a reauthorization that I offered, the Carl D. Perkins Act, in the form of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act.

Now, I am proud to say that this bill passed unanimously out of committee, which is good news because a reauthorization is badly needed.

It is no secret that our country continues to face significant economic challenges, and it is no surprise that many men and women are worried about their futures and their family's future. Last week a Gallup poll found that 54 percent—just 54 percent—of Americans believed today's young people will live a better life than their parents.

As a father, I can say there is nothing a parent wants more for their children than a life that is better than their own. When you hear that only half of all Americans expect their children to have a brighter future than they did, it becomes clear that we need to do better. And we can do better, not just for our own kids, but for the neighbor who can't find a job, the friend from church who struggles to make ends meet, the family that has been trapped in poverty with no pathway out, or the high school student who struggles and has no hope or inspiration that he or she has what it takes to succeed.

With the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act, we have an opportunity today to advance reforms that will help these and many other Americans, especially young Americans, obtain the knowledge and skills that they need to break the cycle of poverty and to achieve a lifetime of success. This bill will modernize and improve current law to better reflect the challenges and realities facing students, workers, and employers.

The bill will empower State and local leaders by simplifying the application process for receiving Federal funds and providing them more flexibility to use those resources to respond to the changing education and economic needs. These reforms will help State

leaders focus on preparing students for the workforce—not duplicative or overly prescriptive Federal requirements—and enable them to determine the best way to do so.

To increase transparency and accountability, H.R. 5587 streamlines performance measures to ensure secondary and post-secondary programs deliver results, helping students graduate, prepared to secure a good-paying job or further their education. The bill also includes measures to provide students, taxpayers, and State and local leaders the information that they need to hold CTE programs accountable for delivering those results.

Finally, H.R. 5587 will reduce the Federal role in career and technical education and limiting opportunities for the Federal Government to intervene in State and local decisions and preventing political favoritism.

This is a bipartisan bill, Mr. Speaker. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their help in creating it. I look forward to seeing it on the floor of the United States House of Representatives hopefully in the near future.

IRAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, this month we mark the first anniversary of an historic agreement between Iran and six major world powers, including some of our key western allies, plus Russia and China.

The agreement was designed to force Iran to back away from the nuclear threshold, acquiring nuclear weapons, which everyone agreed would be a disaster.

Instead of sober reflection on the success of the agreement, where we are and where we are going, we will, instead, be discussing legislation that is

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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